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LITERATURE REVIEW OF TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

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INTRODUCTION

Many of the factors that make women vulnerable to gender-based violence—endemic and systemic gender discrimination, poverty, crisis, poor education and health infrastructures—are similar to the root causes of trafficking in persons, which may imply a link between gender-based violence and human trafficking, especially among women and girls. As a result, the USAID Office of Women in Development commissioned a literature review, through an Anti-Trafficking Task Order established with Chemonics International, highlighting the links between gender-based violence and trafficking in persons. However, the review found an insufficient amount of evidence to conclusively establish the link between the two.

Due in large part to its hidden nature, there are no consistent, reliable statistics on the number of persons trafficked, and any related gender-based violence incidents therein. Furthermore, the potential threats to exposed victims of trafficking and confidentiality concerns make it difficult to collect the necessary background information to discern how incidences of gender-based violence may have resulted in victims being trafficked.

The literature review is a summary of select sources that directly or indirectly address gender-based violence and its potential link to human trafficking. Sources ranged from academic research studies and donor-funded publications, including other literature reviews, to project reports and databases which house information on trafficking victims.

Within the literature, several in-depth examinations of the relationship between violence and trafficking in regions such as South Eastern Europe suggest an emergence of interest in the link between both issues. The literature also offers a few recommendations as to how the link between gender-based violence and trafficking in persons could be addressed in future programs, underlining the possibility that future studies can establish a more definitive link.

In conclusion, the majority of reports cited in this literature review point out that while anecdotal evidence or experience on the ground indicate that gender-based violence is a factor in women's vulnerability to being trafficked, more empirical research is needed before the nature of the relationship between both can be better understood.

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY: TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS AND GBV

Amnesty International. *Kosovo (Serbia and Montenegro) “So Does It Mean that We Have the Rights?” Protecting Human Rights of Women and Girls Trafficked for Forced Prostitution in Kosovo. 2004.*

This report documents the abuses perpetrated against women and girls in Kosovo and advocates for the protection of the rights of trafficked women. Based on data from early 2000 to 2004, it includes interviews with international and local staff employed by the United Nations Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), including UNMIK police, the Kosovo Police, and many local NGOs working with victims of trafficking. Interviews with 105 trafficked women in Kosovo revealed that many suffered human rights violations in their home countries. Some evidence of violence experienced prior to being trafficked—as well as violence as a part of trafficking—was collected from victim interviews. Staff at the NGO Centre for the Protection of Women and Children reported that the majority of young trafficked women come from poor backgrounds, often from dysfunctional families with high levels of domestic violence and alcoholism; many were displaced during the war.

Bennet, Allison. “The Reintegration of Child Ex-Combatants in Sierra Leone with Particular Focus on the Needs of Females.” Master’s thesis, University of East London, 2002.

This thesis focuses on the reintegration needs of women and girl ex-combatants associated with the fighting forces in Sierra Leone between 1991 and 2002. The author based her research on interviews with individuals from the government, local and international NGOs, and 60 female and male ex-combatants in Freetown. Key findings were that, following armed conflict, many girls were reluctant to go home for fear of rejection and stigmatization due to their involvement with the rebels and their history of sexual abuse. Some girls were worried that they would be considered tainted and unmarriageable. In some cases the family agrees to take back their daughter but not her children. The author concludes that these social stigmas enhance women’s and girls’ vulnerabilities to further exploitation. The research also shows that a history of sexual violence during conflict is a factor in the decision whether or not to access reintegration services. The author’s research establishes sexual violence during civil conflict as a possible push factor into commercial sexual exploitation.

Betron, Myra. *Understanding the Issue: Annotated Bibliography on GBV*, Washington, DC: POLICY Project, 2006.

This bibliography, targeted toward practitioners and activists, provides practical guides for program managers and officers, including training materials, how-to-toolkits, and literature reviews of promising interventions. Although the bibliography has a special focus on the health sector, it also addresses legal and justice systems, the education sector, community mobilization, and behavioral change as they relate to gender-based violence (GBV). The bibliography also includes reports, studies, guidelines, and handbooks on GBV in conflict settings, female genital cutting (FGC), and trafficking in separate sections. The three documents that address the intersection between GBV and trafficking are included in this bibliography.

Betron, Myra, and Elizabeth Doggett. *Linking GBV Research to Practice in East, Central, and Southern Africa: A Review of Risk Factors and Promising Interventions*. Washington, DC: POLICY Project, 2006.

The report examines issues of sex trafficking, early marriage, violence among men and boys, and female genital cutting (FGC) within the socio-cultural contexts of intimate partnerships and community relationships in East, Central, and South Africa (ECSA). The authors examine individual, relational and communal risk factors for GBV from a public health perspective. The purpose of the review is to inform GBV prevention strategies for USAID's regional office for East Africa and the regional offices of UNICEF, UNFPA, and UNIFEM. The authors recommend a multi-sectoral approach to address GBV. Trafficking is seen as a form of GBV, focusing primarily on sex trafficking. Push and pull factors for human trafficking are reviewed but the authors do not directly explore GBV as a contributing factor.

Buscher, Dale. *Displaced Women and Girls at Risk: Risk Factors, Protection Solutions and Resource Tools*. New York: Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children, 2006.

This publication focuses on risk factors leading to the displacement of women and girls. The author suggests that displaced female populations, who suffer disproportionately from lack of resources and community support, are the most at risk for both trafficking and GBV. The report notes that women are susceptible to trafficking when they are in camps because of physical insecurity, food shortages, lack of documentation, and few if any economic and educational opportunities. The study proposes some recommendations to address women's and girls' vulnerabilities in displacement, including training peacekeepers and security personnel in gender and human rights awareness, ensuring legal assistance, and engaging civil society groups, but does not directly address how these might prevent trafficking.

Claramunt, Maria Cecilia. *Costa Rica—The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Minors: A Rapid Assessment*. Geneva: ILO/IPEC, 2002.

This assessment of the problem of commercial sexual exploitation in Costa Rica provides a profile of 100 child and adolescent victims of trafficking (50 from San Jose and 50 from Limon). The assessment notes that the majority of victims come from poor homes characterized by family violence and substance abuse. The findings are not disaggregated by gender. The assessment also summarizes the primary challenges facing Costa Rica in dealing with the problem, including poor implementation of international mandates, lack of assistance to victims, and need for legal reform.

Coffey, Pamela, Amy Vallance Phariss, and Tamar Renaud. *Literature Review of Trafficking in Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean*. Washington, D.C.: USAID, 2004.

This literature review, which provides a general overview of trafficking within the Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) region, includes numerous works on sex trafficking of children and discusses situational, legal, and civil society responses to combat sex trafficking. The report establishes linkages between migration patterns and human trafficking within the region, noting that female migration is multidimensional: not only do women migrate in search of economic opportunities; they also leave home to escape domestic violence and/or political instability and conflict. The region shares many of the same push/pull factors associated with trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation in other parts of the world, such as poverty, lack of economic opportunities and gender discrimination. However, based on the available literature, children are the most vulnerable to trafficking and high percentages of exploited children suffer sexual abuse at the hands of male family members prior to entering into prostitution. The review notes that “few documents explore concerted strategies, societal efforts, and operational research into anti-trafficking prevention and protection programs that address the condition of families as a whole” (p. x).

Egan, Rachel. "Trafficking in Women and Children (Part 1): A Literature Review of Contributory Factors." *Community Safety Journal* 5, no. 1 (2006): 4-11.

This brief review focuses on the reasons for the rise in human trafficking. Citing the definition of trafficking used in 2000 United Nations' Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, the author discusses push factors such as lack of economic and educational opportunities, resource deprivation, loss of civil rights, and cultural norms as well as factors within the demand and supply chain that contribute to human trafficking. The author also cites a number of documents that establish a relationship between GBV and trafficking. (These documents are reviewed elsewhere in this bibliography.)

Gozdziak, Elzbieta, Ph.D. and Micah Bump, M.A. *Data and Research on Human Trafficking: Bibliography of Research-Based Literature*. Washington, DC: The Institute for the Study of International Migration, Walsh School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University, 2008.

This review presents a comprehensive bibliography of English language research-based literature on human trafficking. Beginning with a base of 6000 English language sources, the final document includes 741 citations distributed among reports, journal articles, and books. The summary of findings focuses on the challenges facing trafficking research, noting that “the scarcity of quantitative studies stems from both the unavailability of datasets on trafficking in persons and difficulty in gaining access to the existing databases” (p. 7). The review notes that studies that are based on interviews with trafficking victims generally have small and unrepresentative samples. It also finds that a great deal of research is focused on trafficking for sexual exploitation to the detriment of investigating other forms of trafficking. None of the documents cited in the bibliography specifically examine GBV as a causal factor in trafficking, although some of them may include reference to such a link.

The Human Security Centre. *The Human Security Report*. 2005. Vancouver: Liu Institute for Global Issues, University of British Columbia, 2005.

This document recognizes human trafficking as a security issue because of the prevalence and types of violence associated with it. It offers a comprehensive view of global violence within diverse political and social contexts. The section on human trafficking discusses the challenges in locating high-quality research data on trafficking victims. Most of the information the Human Security Center has collected on victims of trafficking in this report is related to post-trafficking experiences. There is also a discussion of how perpetrators use violence to control victims during their ordeal. Although the report refers to violence experienced prior to trafficking, it identifies poverty as the single most significant driver of human trafficking. The authors propose the development of a Human Security Index, comparable to the Human Development Index, in which composite indices could serve a number of purposes, including comparisons of the use of violence as a control measure during the trafficking experience among countries and over time.

International Center for Research on Women (ICRW). *Gender Based Violence and HIV/AIDS in Cambodia: Links, Opportunities and Potential Responses*. Washington, DC: ICRW, 2005.

This paper examines the growing evidence that GBV can increase the risk of HIV/AIDS as well as be an outcome of HIV/AIDS. Cambodia has one of the highest prevalence rates of HIV in Asia. GBV is also a problem in Cambodia and ranges from sexual harassment to rape to domestic violence. The report recognizes trafficking of women and girls as a form of GBV and asserts that existing responses to GBV have focused primarily on trafficking. The paper recommends legal frameworks and program initiatives to combat both GBV and HIV/AIDS, including legal frameworks to combat trafficking.

International Organization for Migration (IOM). *Data and Research on Human Trafficking: A Global Survey*. Geneva: IOM, 2005.

This global survey provides a comprehensive discussion of research on human trafficking worldwide, with separate essays and a bibliography for each geographic region. Many of the chapters discuss violence as one of the push factors for women who migrate and become vulnerable to traffickers. Examples include women subjected to marital stress, abused street children who end up trafficked in Africa, and girls with a history of physical and sexual abuse who fall victim to traffickers in Latin America. There are also several chapters on methodological issues and gaps in research which note the limited number of studies based on extensive empirical research, and the importance of improving data collection and research on human trafficking. There is a useful discussion of the need to investigate human insecurity as a root cause of both migration and trafficking. Discrimination on the basis of gender is noted as a key dimension of human insecurity, “gender-specific economic, social and cultural insecurities explain to a great extent different motivations to, and modes of, migration. For instance, there is some evidence that in the case of women, it is often not purely economic hardship as such that leads to migration and trafficking, but also such aspects as violent marriages or family relations and stigmatized status as a widow or single mother” (p. 227). The author suggests that research on gendered patterns that push vulnerable people to migrate could yield information about trafficking that would inform migration and anti-trafficking policy.

International Organization for Migration (IOM). *Exploratory Assessment of Trafficking Persons in the Caribbean Region*. Geneva and Washington, D.C.: IOM, 2005.

This report offers a cross-country review of the manifestations of trafficking in the Bahamas, Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica, the Netherlands Antilles, St. Lucia, and Suriname. Victims of human trafficking in the region include men, women, boys, and girls from within the Caribbean as well as from extra-regional countries.

Many of these victims have experienced multiple forms of exploitation including sexual exploitation, forced labor, and domestic servitude. The document concludes that major push factors include poverty, socioeconomic status and inequality that is often based on gender. It notes that for women and girls GBV, discrimination, and sexual exploitation contribute to their vulnerability. Primarily a qualitative exercise based on field assessments and key informant interviews, this report was not intended to provide definitive information on trafficking victims within each country; however, the report does provide a starting point for each country to examine the problem of human trafficking within a local context and to encourage dialogue about how to combat this crime within the Caribbean region.

International Organization for Migration (IOM). *Second Annual Report on Victims of Trafficking in South-Eastern Europe*. Geneva: IOM, 2005.

This second report by the IOM's Regional Clearing Point (RCP) describes the scope of trafficking in the region, including the trafficking experiences of victims assisted by local and international NGOs working in South Eastern Europe. The report analyzes social and economic characteristics of victims based on data collected from service providers in Bosnia Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Republic of Kosovo, the Republic of Moldova, Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia and Ukraine. The research highlights that victims, both men and women, hail from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds and are trafficked from, through and to South Eastern Europe for a variety of purposes, not just sexual exploitation. The report found that no one factor contributed to trafficking; rather a multiplicity of factors influenced victims' vulnerability, including but not limited to age, economic background, family relations, education, employment situation, ethnicity, disabilities, and living situation at recruitment. Available information is insufficient to draw any conclusions about the specific role played by gender-based or domestic violence in the region; however, each country section summarizes the evidence that exists regarding victims' history of poor family relations, including domestic violence and abuse. In each of the countries, some kind of family and/or social stress is one factor among many in the victims' backgrounds.

Jolly, Susie and Hazel Reeves. *Gender and Migration: An Overview Report*. Brighton, UK: BRIDGE, Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex, 2005.

This report explores the gendered dimensions of forced and voluntary migration, internally and across borders, and generally recognizes inequality and experience of poverty and violence as push factors for migration. The report states that current efforts focus either on advancing women's rights or on combating forced migration; seldom are the two approaches combined.

The report recognizes that the root causes of migration and trafficking overlap and recommends support for international human rights protections for women migrants and trafficked people. The report also includes texts that provide overviews, case studies, tools and guidelines regarding gender and migration.

La Strada International. *Violation of Women's Rights: A Cause and Consequence of Trafficking in Women*. Amsterdam, 2008.

The report is the result of a desk study on the violation of women's rights and on trafficking in women in Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Macedonia, Moldova, the Netherlands, Poland and Ukraine. Utilizing a human rights based approach, the report analyzes the violation of women's rights as both a cause and a consequence of trafficking of women. La Strada emphasizes the importance of understanding the gendered factors that increase vulnerability to trafficking including women's social and economic positions, and the need for greater awareness of the rights violations that trafficking causes. Referring to the Zimmerman paper *Stolen Smiles* and USAID's *Examining the Intersection of Domestic Violence and Trafficking in Eastern Europe*, the authors make the case that domestic violence increases vulnerability to trafficking. However, the report also cautions that "[a] causal link between a contributing factor [such as domestic violence] cannot . . . be uniformly established" (p. 44). The report includes detailed recommendations on improving the social position of women as well as their positions in the labor market and ways of eradicating gendered stereotypes and domestic violence.

Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights. *Domestic Violence in Moldova*. December 2000. Minneapolis, MN, 2000.

This research was conducted in collaboration with Winrock International as the first phase of a larger project to address domestic violence and trafficking of women and children. The report is based on interviews with women, judges, prosecutors, police officers, doctors, NGO representatives, journalists, and academics. The document discusses the status of women in Moldova, evidence of domestic violence, the national legal framework, and Moldova's obligations under international law with regard to domestic violence. The researchers found that domestic violence may be a factor for trafficking of women for commercial sex exploitation and is also a risk for women after having been trafficked. Many interviewees describe domestic violence as one of the reasons many young Moldovan women leave the country to look for work and are trafficked. Others describe cases of trafficking victims who returned only to find reintegration into their families nearly impossible.

Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights. *Trafficking in Women: Moldova and Ukraine*. December 2000. Minneapolis, MN, 2000.

This report summarizes the findings of the Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights research delegations to Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova. The research was conducted in 2000 to document the problem of trafficking of women in both countries. The research found that the strongest risk factor for trafficking was the desperate economic situation which affected the availability of satisfactory employment in both countries. In addition, the report offers anecdotal evidence that some women choose to work abroad because they are victims of domestic violence. The researchers state that there is little information on returned victims, in part because so few women have been returned and because those who have returned do not want to talk about their experiences. However, the researchers also argue that “if women return to their husbands... they appear to be at an increased risk for domestic violence and divorce” (p. 28).

**Mirzoyeva, Gulchehra. *Armed Conflicts and Human Traffic in Tajikistan*. Modar NGO Report, 2004 (accessed November 6, 2008).
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/fpn_atrocities/message/174.**

This report explores the challenges facing women and girls within Tajikistan's 1991-1997 conflict and post-conflict settings, describing the emergence of human trafficking of women and children for commercial sexual exploitation during this period as a result of extended poverty and displacement. The document notes that the conflict contributed to a rise in GBV and displacement “[w]hen women leave areas of conflict in search of asylum the danger of violence increases. They become victims of violence by other displaced persons, inhabitants, fighters, and security soldiers.” The report explains that experiences of GBV within these settings increased the vulnerability of women and children to being trafficked.

Nelson, Sue, Jeannine Guthrie and Pamela Sumner Coffey. *Literature Review and Analysis Related to Human Trafficking in Post-Conflict Situations*. Washington, D.C.: USAID, 2004.

This review of available documents in English and French from 1995 to 2004 includes published and unpublished materials, articles, reports, research studies, surveys, and programmatic interventions related to post-conflict trafficking. The review spanned issues of women and war, women and conflict, children and war, war and GBV, and gender and peacekeeping. It found that few documents referenced the problem of human trafficking in conflict or post-conflict situations but that there is evidence of an emerging pattern of heightened risk of trafficking faced by displaced children and women before, during, and after conflict. Yet, because of a lack of information from conflict situations, little is known of the numbers of people affected or their specific situations.

Several works include descriptions of post-war conditions such as militarized populations with high levels of violence against women, breakdown in social structures and legal institutions, gender inequality and low status of women and girls, dislocated persons and families, and a lack of physical and social protection mechanisms—all of which create fertile ground for trafficking.

O’Laughlin, Carol Michaels. *Researching the Root Causes of Trafficking in Bahia, Brazil, Progress Report*. April 2008. Arlington, VA: Winrock International, 2008.

This document provides a brief update on the implementation of Winrock’s anti-trafficking project in Bahia, Brazil. It presents results from focus groups of educators, policy-makers and specialists in child trafficking and includes data collected through survey questions posed to 23 children and adolescents who had been trafficked or who were at-risk. The report highlights the difficulties in accessing consistent and reliable data from institutions and victim assistance service providers as well as information from victims that could paint an accurate picture of trafficking in Brazil. However, some information gleaned from victims reveals how some incidences of trafficking occur, such as when children are sold by their parents, abandoned, or sexually abused by family members. The report references a separate, final evaluation written in Portuguese that provides additional insight into the link between GBV and trafficking.

PACT Cambodia. *Preventing Trafficking of Women: A Study of Origin and Vulnerability Factors for Trafficking Victims and Direct Sex Workers in Four Cambodian Cities*, 2004.

This survey presents research by PACT Cambodia’s WORTH program for the prevention of trafficking. The research included a review of current literature and a field survey of 420 brothel-based women and girls in Kampong Som, Sisophon, Poipet, and Phnom Penh. PACT determined the geographic origin of selected trafficked Cambodian women and girls and explored various vulnerability factors that prompted them to enter into prostitution. All respondents were Khmer nationals. 31.4% of the total respondent were classified as “trafficked”. The four most common problems cited by respondents who had experienced trafficking were debt (48.6% of all respondents), food shortages (47%), a divorced or dead parent (42%) and illness. Although the respondents did not make the link, the survey concluded that within the Cambodian context, women aged 17-27 who are impoverished or in debt, uneducated, and from dysfunctional families are vulnerable to trafficking. A survey question about “family dysfunction” included specific questions about domestic violence, lack of food, debt, alcoholism, and gambling, suggesting that a broad definition of “family dysfunction” was used. The survey highlights that these trafficking victims frequently experienced violence as part of their history.

Phinney, Alison. *Trafficking of Women and Children for Sexual Exploitation in the Americas: An Introduction to Trafficking in the Americas*. Inter-American Commission of Women of the Organization of American States and the Women, Health and Development Program of the Pan-American Health Organization, 2001.

This article provides an overview of sex trafficking of women and children in the Americas, including female migration as a result of conflict-related poverty and violence in countries such as Guatemala. There, the reports notes, “traffickers preyed on young girls raped in the course of armed conflict, whose stigma as rape victims had damaged their marriage prospects” (p. 2) The article includes information gleaned from interviews and surveys conducted with women and children who had been trafficked. Information on child exploitation is not disaggregated by gender. The report also looks at root causes, human rights dimensions, and the role of corruption in human trafficking. Finally, it examines the health implications of trafficking including HIV-AIDS and the policy context of anti-trafficking efforts in the Americas.

Poppy Project. *When Women are Trafficked: Quantifying the Gendered Experience of Trafficking in the UK*. April 2004.

In 2004, the Poppy Project in the UK surveyed 26 women receiving assistance about their experiences as victims of trafficking. Women who were interviewed about their pre-trafficking experiences were asked particularly about incidents of physical and sexual abuse. Almost half the women (46%) reported that they had experienced sexual abuse or rape prior to being trafficked. The authors note that two reasons may exist for the prevalence of violent experiences prior to being trafficked: 1) trafficking networks target women who have previously been victims of violence prior to being trafficked, and/or 2) violence is a way of “grooming” women for trafficking given that several of the victims reported being threatened with violence immediately before they were trafficked.

***The Protection Project. A Human Rights Report on Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children: Ecuador*. March 2002 (accessed November 5, 2008),**
http://www.protectionproject.org/human_rights_reports/report_documents/ecuador.doc.

This report, which focuses on the problem of internal and cross-border trafficking and the commercial sexual exploitation of children in Ecuador, lists poverty, homelessness, family violence, and a growing demand for commercial sex as root causes of human trafficking. The report includes statistics and descriptive data on commercial sexual exploitation of children in Ecuador. It quotes a survey of sexually exploited girls in the country, conducted by the International Labor Organization, which revealed that many were abandoned or orphaned by one or both parents and/or subjected to domestic violence, mistreatment and abuse.

Rudd, Jane, Ph.D. *A Report on Trafficking Prevention Efforts in Ukraine: Impact of the Women for Women Centers on At-Risk Teen and Adult Women*. Winrock International, 2001.

This project evaluation conducted from September to December 2000 looked at three project-supported Women for Women Centers in Lviv, Dnipropetrovsk and Donetsk. Through an examination of information provided by women attending the three centers and an evaluation of anti-trafficking advocacy campaigns, the report offers a profile of women who are at risk for trafficking. The research sample included 327 teens and adult women ranging in ages from 14 to 51 who attended the Centers' training. Findings demonstrated that while a lack of financial resources strongly influenced girls' and women's decisions to go abroad in situations that left them vulnerable to trafficking, abuse was as important a push factor. The survey found an alarmingly high rate of violence in women's and teens' lives. For example, 50% of adult women had experienced physical, sexual or emotional violence and 20% remained in a violent situation. The evaluator recommends that service providers focus their attention on the link between GBV and a victim's tendency to flee abroad in their trainings at the centers, in public awareness efforts, and on programs that provide women with alternative places to go—other than abroad—when faced with a violent situation. "This kind of message, both in the trainings and publicly, would not only educate women about this negative connection, it would hopefully educate them that they do not need to stay in a situation of violence" (p. 6).

Shan Human Rights Foundation and the Shan Women's Action Network. *License to Rape, The Burmese Military Regime's Use of Sexual Violence in the Ongoing War in Shan State*. The Shan Human Rights Foundation (SHRF) & The Shan Women's Action Network (SWAN), 2002.

This NGO human rights online report details 173 incidents of rape and other forms of GBV committed by Burmese army troops involving 625 girls and women in Shan State between 1996 and 2001. The report focuses on the consequences of sexual violence on victims. The report states that victims faced blame and rejection from their own families and communities, and many fled to Thailand after being raped. The report notes that the failure to recognize Shan refugees in Thailand has led to a lack of protection and no access to humanitarian aid or counseling services, making them vulnerable to exploitation and trafficking.

Sorensen, Bente. *Protecting Children and Adolescents Against Commercial Sexual Exploitation in Central America, Panama and the Dominican Republic*. Geneva: ILO, undated.

During 2001, the U.S. Department of Labor funded an ILO regional survey in Central America and the Dominican Republic to examine the commercial sexual exploitation of children. At the time of the study 612 sexually exploited children were interviewed.

While the results to survey question responses were not disaggregated by gender, the numbers of boys and girls who were surveyed by country are included. Sorensen concludes that a violent family environment, which is socially accepted in the countries surveyed, pushes children to leave their homes and search for alternative living conditions, increasing their risk of being trafficked. The report also includes an analysis of adults' attitudes towards the problem of sexual exploitation of children. Three of every four adults interviewed in each country knew about minors being exploited sexually but did not report it. In many cases the family of the exploited child is living below the poverty line and has experienced inter-family violence.

Tiurukanova, Elena V. with the Institute for Urban Economics for UN/IOM Working Group on Trafficking in Human Beings. *Human Trafficking in the Russian Federation: Inventory and Analysis of the Current Situation and Responses*. Moscow: UNICEF/ILO/CIDA, 2006.

This report presents an overall picture of human trafficking in Russia. It examines the extent, nature and origins of trafficking in Russia and provides a description of high-risk groups, the ways that traffickers attract potential victims, and trafficking routes. The report recognizes that family crises together with poverty are the most common reasons for human trafficking in the Russian Federation. Women and children who are victims of domestic violence or who live in problem families are cited as among the most vulnerable. Children from single-parent families or from broken homes (which account for approximately 14 million Russian children) are particularly vulnerable because these families have fewer child-care options and much lower incomes than two-parent households. In addition, in identifying at-risk groups, female rape survivors (whom experts estimate comprise 20% of the female population in Russia) are usually included as a high risk group for human trafficking since they are more disposed to take risks as a result of psychological trauma resulting from their assaults. According to the report, gender disparities and inequality not only manifest themselves in domestic violence but are also root causes of trafficking; however, the report notes that while a wide range of risk factors for trafficking exist, their specific impact on population groups has not been adequately studied.

Tumlin, Karen C. *Trafficking in Children in Asia; A Regional Overview. An ILO/IPEC Paper*. Bangkok: Institute for Asian Studies, Chulalongkorn University, 2000.

This paper focuses on trafficking in children in South and South-East Asia. The report offers a short "history" of sexual abuse stating that a correlation exists between a history of sexual abuse and the potential for future sexual exploitation. The report suggests that social taboos against premarital sex and rigid conceptions of "good" and "bad" girls have led many victims to feel that they have no prospect of being accepted by their community. The report also discusses abuse suffered in the domestic labor context.

For example, many children recruited from poor Sinhalese and Tamil families in Sri Lanka are often physically and sexually abused. Because of the stigma attached to premarital sex, abused girls, “run away from their workplace and end up as street prostitutes” (p. 6).

U.N. Commission for Human Rights. *Report of the Special Rapporteur, Ms. Radhika Coomaraswamy on Violence against Women, Its Causes and Consequences, Document E/CN.4/2000/68. United Nations Economic and Social Council, 29 February 2000.*

The report details the Special Rapporteur’s position on trafficking and includes an overview of the Special Rapporteur’s work undertaken throughout the year 2000 with regard to trafficking. The report highlights that women move and are moved, consensually and non-consensually, legally and illegally, for numerous reasons, including social, political, cultural and economic ones. It speaks in general about the link between violence and trafficking when discussing root causes. In outlining the root causes of migration and trafficking, Section 54 of the report posits that the lack of rights afforded to women serves as the primary causative factor of migration and trafficking. The report also highlights violence as a tool used to express discrimination against women.

U.N. Division for the Advancement of Women, U.N. Economic Commission for Europe, and U.N. Statistical Division. *Report of the Expert Working Group Meeting. Indicators to Measure Violence against Women. Geneva, 8 -10 October 2007.*

This report is the result of a meeting hosted by the Conference of European Statisticians’ Task Force on Violence Against Women. The paper discusses the challenges and opportunities for states in collecting data on violence against women and monitoring the extent of such violence systematically. The report notes that some forms of violence against women such as trafficking and forced marriage are difficult to measure. Moreover, the reports states that “[v]iolence against women in mobile populations, including violence against women in conflict/crisis areas and trafficking, cannot be captured through household surveys, and other forms of data collection need to be developed” (p. 27). One of the conclusions is that trafficking should be included in a list of indicators measuring GBV.

U.N. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). *Violence Against and Trafficking in Women as Symptoms of Discrimination: The Potential of CEDAW as an Antidote. Gender and Development Discussion Paper Series No. 17.* ESCAP Secretariat, December 2005.

The paper utilizes a rights-based approach to examine the problem of trafficking and the Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) as a tool for addressing violence and trafficking in an integrated manner. The paper builds on the premise that since violence and trafficking entail violations of human rights, a human rights approach must be used in addressing the problem. The report also states that “studies examining the motivations of trafficked persons overwhelmingly confirm that many women will accept dangerous migration arrangements in order to escape the consequences of entrenched gender discrimination including unemployment, violence, lack of security and lack of access to basic resources” (p. 12). While the paper stops short of addressing programmatic implications, it offers an analysis of why and how human trafficking and GBV are linked.

U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Intersectoral Poverty Eradication Programme. *Policy Paper No. 14.6 (E) Human Trafficking in Lesotho: Root Causes and Recommendations.* Paris: UNESCO, 2007.

This policy paper by UNESCO presents the results of interviews with stakeholders in 2004-2005 and an analysis of available literature on human trafficking, especially with regard to women and children in Lesotho. The paper examines anti-trafficking efforts in Lesotho and describes the current legal framework. The report states that push factors for trafficking include poverty, gender discrimination, violence against women and harmful social practices. It includes a section on gender inequalities and cites those inherent in Lesotho’s customary and common law as a potential vulnerability factor for trafficking. For example, the authors note that a woman’s vulnerability is increased by the fact that she cannot obtain a passport without the consent of her husband; this contributes to an increase in illegal crossings, which brings with it a heightened risk of being trafficked.

U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Intersectoral Poverty Eradication Programme. *Policy Paper No. 14.1 (E) Human Trafficking in Mozambique: Root Causes and Recommendations.* Paris: UNESCO, 2006.

This paper is based on a combination of interviews and analysis of available literature on human trafficking, especially of women and children in Mozambique. The report presents a country profile of Mozambique and the situation of human trafficking in the country.

It highlights the fact that gender-based discrimination, as manifested and sanctioned in both statutory and customary law and practice, results in the abuse of women's human rights and helps to sustain their disadvantaged position within Mozambican society. The term "gender-based discrimination," rather than "GBV," is used to refer to practices that heighten gender inequality and increase vulnerability. While the paper does not establish direct links between GBV and human trafficking, it highlights other push factors such as women's poverty and lack of opportunities that could increase the vulnerability of women and girls within the country.

U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Intersectoral Poverty Eradication Programme. *Policy Paper No. 14.5 (E) Human Trafficking in South Africa: Root Causes and Recommendations*. Paris: UNESCO, 2007.

This paper is based on country interviews and analysis of available literature on human trafficking, especially of women and children in South Africa. It provides a country profile of human trafficking, examines push and pull factors, and discusses the policy and legal frameworks of the country as they relate to trafficking. The report states that there is a risk of trafficking linked to such cultural practices as early marriage, "Child marriage can, itself, lead to destitute poverty of women through divorce, separation or abandonment. Very often, the only option for girls and women in situations of extreme marital stress is to run away" (p. 37). The paper offers policy and program-level recommendations and concludes that whatever strategies are developed to combat trafficking, "women's rights need to be at the core."

UNICEF. *Guinea: A Window on West Africa's War-Weary Children*. Media Release. Conakry/Geneva: 2003.

This is a 2003 media release by UNICEF which reported that along with many Guinean children returning from Liberia, thousands of children fled West Africa's wars and were living as street children in Guinea. The media release summarized the effects of war on West African children during the 1990s, stating that children fled recruitment, violence, and exploitation. When they crossed borders, they began as unaccompanied children in one place, became child soldiers in another, and emerged as refugee minors in a third. The document also discussed the uncertain prospects of vulnerable children, noting that if they cannot find a way to survive on their own or are rejected by their families, they may return to the fighting forces and face servitude and exploitation as a consequence. The report also discussed efforts to demobilize child soldiers.

UNICEF. *Trafficking in Human Beings in South Eastern Europe. Focus on Prevention in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Moldova, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro.* Geneva, 2004.

This report provides an overview of trafficking prevention activities in South Eastern Europe. One section of the report discusses the importance of addressing violence against women. The report suggests that there is growing recognition of a direct link between GBV and trafficking at the ground level, if not at the policy level. While domestic violence is perceived as one of the factors that make women vulnerable to trafficking, there are no prevention programs linking violence against women in the family and trafficking.

The report states that anti-violence programs should be seen as an extension of activities to prevent trafficking and as part of an “early warning system” for trafficking in South Eastern Europe. Finally, the report suggests that “in the current situation, where the numbers of identified cases of trafficking in this region is rather small, the network of organizations and shelters supporting victims of domestic violence could be an effective and cheap alternative to the expensive system of shelters established by governmental and international organizations for trafficking” (pp. 20-21).

UNICEF Innocenti Insight. *Child Trafficking in Europe: A Broad Vision to Put Children First.* Florence, Italy: UNICEF/Innocenti Research Centre (IRC), 2007.

This report on child trafficking examines patterns and routes, challenges of data collection, legislation on child trafficking in Europe, and policy responses to child trafficking. It states that research from South Eastern Europe confirms that “poverty, alcoholism, family dysfunction, drug abuse, sexual abuse and domestic violence are among the factors contributing to children’s vulnerability” (p. 12). However, case studies in South Eastern Europe also show that children from loving and caring families who do not consider themselves poor can also become victims of trafficking.

UNICEF Innocenti Insight. *South Asia In Action: Preventing and Responding to Child Trafficking, Summary Report.* Florence, Italy: UNICEF/Innocenti Research Centre (IRC), 2008.

This document presents the main findings from research on child trafficking in South Asia. It provides a synopsis of two UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre publications: *South Asia in Action: Preventing and responding to child trafficking: Analysis of anti-trafficking initiatives in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka*, and *South Asia in Action: Preventing and responding to child trafficking: Child Rights-based programme practices.*

The summary report discusses 1) trafficking patterns in South Asian countries; 2) a regional analysis of legal frameworks relevant in addressing child trafficking; 3) regional policy responses and implementation; 4) prevailing conceptual approaches that influence anti-trafficking initiatives in the region; and 5) conclusions from a child rights-based perspective on prevention, protection and empowerment. The report states that GBV is both a root cause of trafficking and a factor in other protection contexts, such as the vulnerability of girls and women to HIV infection. It also states that in all countries in South Asia, further research into the root causes of child trafficking is needed as “[t]hese root causes are known to include violence and abuse, as well as GBV...At the same time little is known about the dynamics of these causes and their interactive effects” (p.6). The document includes a detailed discussion of child protection issues and an example from Nepal of rights-based programming at the community level to address such issues as child marriage and domestic violence.

UNICEF Innocenti Insight. *Trafficking in Human Beings, Especially Women and Children, In Africa (Second Edition)*. Florence, Italy: UNICEF/Innocenti Research Centre (IRC), 2005.

This study builds on previous UNICEF work on child trafficking in eight West African countries. The report provides a short section on the cross-cutting causes and vulnerabilities of trafficking as well as an in-depth look at destination and source countries, trafficking flow patterns, and existing legal frameworks to combat trafficking. It also includes several country examples of responses to trafficking. Section 2 identifies major push factors as poverty, power and violence, mentioning gender violence, domestic violence and child abuse as among the push factors for trafficking. The study suggests that societal patterns of instability and oppression, including the prevalence of GBV, make women and children more vulnerable to being trafficked and exploited. It notes that “trafficking of girls and women, very often under conditions of violence and deprivation, can also be connected to the high prevalence of overall violence in public and private spheres against women” (p. 5). The report links forced child marriage to trafficking in a number of ways: poverty can induce parents to sell their daughters for marriage; the fear of the marriage induces girls to run away from their parents; and girls in such marriages run away from them or are abandoned. Girls who run away may end up trafficked and in brothels.

UNICEF UK. *End Child Exploitation: Stop the Traffic!* UNICEF, 2003.

UNICEF UK’s Stop the Traffic program produced a series of reports examining the issue of human trafficking. This report is the second in the series. It focuses on trafficking of children and includes an overview of trafficking patterns worldwide, including in Eastern Europe, Africa, South East Asia and the Americas. When gender is mentioned in the report, it is used to recognize the different exploitative experiences of boys and girls.

The report states that trafficking of children occurs because of the demand for cheap labor in growing economies and in the commercial sex industry. In addition to poverty, lack of education, and discrimination, the report highlights dysfunctional families as a cause of child trafficking: children may leave a dysfunctional household to try to escape abuse and neglect.

UNIFEM/UNIAP. *Trafficking in Persons: A Gender and Rights Perspective*. Bangkok, 2002.

This paper presents human trafficking in South East Asia from a gender perspective. Useful as a training kit, there are a series of snapshots of essential information, including the magnitude of the problem, the main trafficking routes in the region, the abuses and consequences of trafficking, the importance of a rights-based approach to the problem, the reasons why trafficking is a gender issue, and who is vulnerable to trafficking. Of note, in a section that discusses the vulnerability of women and girls to trafficking, traditional community attitudes and practices which tolerate violence against women are identified as vulnerability factors (p. 10).

U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). *Displaced Children and Orphans Fund. Portfolio Synopsis 2005-2006*. Washington, D.C.: USAID, 2006.

This publication is a synopsis of USAID's Displaced Children and Orphans Fund (DCOF) work to improve the well-being of children and their families in conflict and disaster situations. In 2004 DCOF supported community-level programs in about 19 countries that addressed issues of demobilization and reintegration of child soldiers as well as child trafficking. The publication recognizes that the instability caused by conflict and disaster increases the vulnerabilities of children to exploitation and possibly trafficking, and provides brief overviews of some of its programs in Sierra Leone, Liberia, and in tsunami-affected countries that addressed children's special needs during transitions from conflict to post-conflict situations and during the post-disaster reconstruction phase.

U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). *Literature Review: Trafficking in Humanitarian Emergencies*. Washington, D.C., 2006.

This literature review focused on human trafficking in natural disaster and emergency situations. The review found that although there is an abundance of literature on humanitarian emergencies, little of this work addresses the role disasters play in increasing human trafficking and in particular the trafficking of women and children. The literature review also highlights that women are more vulnerable to sexual violence in the aftermath of a disaster due to the social breakdown and chaos that ensue. This situation is even worse in countries with a history of conflict.

Lower educational levels and social expectations that women will care for children and the sick and depend on the informal economy are factors that compound women's vulnerability to forced marriage, labor exploitation and trafficking. Several of the publications raised issues of GBV, but the connection with trafficking is inferred rather than directly addressed.

U.S. Department of State, Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons. *Trafficking in Persons Report*. Washington, D.C., 2008.

This annual report by the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (G/TIP) assesses the efforts of 150 governments to combat trafficking in persons, including sex trafficking and trafficking for involuntary servitude, debt bondage, slavery and child soldiers. The report includes narratives describing the scope and nature of trafficking. Country profiles contain an assessment of government compliance with minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking, as laid out in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000. A section on "Commendable Initiatives around the World and Topics of Special Interest" highlights on-the-ground experience. Of note are anecdotal examples from Romania and the Philippines of children and teens leaving home to escape sexual violence. A section on the problems of street children refers to the global problem of sexual abuse of children as a push factor to being trafficked.

Ward, Jeanne. *If Not Now, When? Addressing GBV in Refugee, Internally Displaced, and Post-Conflict Settings: A Global Overview*. New York: The Reproductive Health for Refugees Consortium, 2002.

This report is the result of a two-year initiative to provide a narrative account of the major issues and programming efforts related to the prevention and response to GBV. The report points out that sexual violence is only one variation of GBV that is exacerbated during conflict and post-conflict periods. In this report, human trafficking along with war-related poverty are considered forms of GBV. The report also recognizes that trafficking of women and girls can be used for the systemic purpose of destroying "enemy" populations. Sexual crimes occur during conflict displacement and are committed by a wide array of actors, including insurgency groups, aid workers and peacekeeping forces. GBV is not directly addressed as a push factor for trafficking in the report.

Warnath, Stephen. *Examining the Intersection Between Trafficking in Persons and Domestic Violence*. Washington, D.C.: USAID/Creative Associates International, Inc., 2007.

This desk study commissioned by USAID reviewed the state of knowledge about the relationship between domestic violence and trafficking in the countries of South Eastern Europe (SEE) and Eurasia. The study is based primarily on victim reports of family violence within the home, collected by NGO service providers as a part of client case management.

The author found the data to be incomplete, subjective, and anecdotal, not uniformly collected across service providers, and not sufficiently disaggregated to reflect potentially significant variations in family environments. Despite this, “a preliminary. . . picture emerges of family conflict among trafficking victims identified and assisted in the SEE region. The data reveal that violence, abuse, or other episodes of conflict within the family environment appear in the backgrounds of a number of assisted trafficking victims” (p. 8). The author stresses the complexity of the relationship, noting that a more rigorous examination of the role of domestic violence vis-a-vis trafficking is needed to inform prevention strategies and programs and in particular that empirical research should be undertaken to, “untangle the various factors to learn how they work and interact with one another” (p. 8). The report does not discuss GBV separately, defining domestic violence as, “perpetrated by either a male or female family member against another female or male member of the family” (p. 1).

World Health Organization (WHO). *Summary Report: WHO Multi-country Study on Women’s Health and Domestic Violence against Women: Initial Results on Prevalence, Health Outcomes, and Women’s Responses*. Geneva: WHO, undated.

Initiated in 1997, this multi-country study on women’s health and domestic violence collected data from over 24,000 women from 15 sites in 10 countries. The study was designed to address some of the major gaps in international research on violence against women. Specifically, the study sought to estimate the prevalence of violence against women, including physical, sexual and emotional violence by male and intimate partners, to assess the extent to which intimate-partner violence is associated with a range of health outcomes, to identify factors that may either protect or put women at the risk of violence, and to document and compare the strategies and services that women use to deal with violence by a partner. The report found that levels of violence varied both among and within countries, raising questions not only about underlying factors accounting for these differences but also about the methods used to investigate violence in different countries. The many differences in the way violence is defined and measured in different studies made comparison difficult; however, the report may be useful as a reference point for analyses of GBV and trafficking.

Zimmerman, Catherine. *Health Risks and Consequences of Trafficking in Women and Adolescents, Findings from a Study in the European Union*. London, UK: The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, 2003.

This report is the result of a two-year multi-country study on women’s health and trafficking to the European Union. It includes interviews conducted by researchers in Albania, Italy, the Netherlands, Thailand, and the United Kingdom with women who had been trafficked, health care and other service providers, NGOs, law enforcement, and policymakers.

The report found that health risks, consequences, and barriers to services for trafficked women are similar to those experienced by other marginalized groups. The report also includes a discussion of the “pre-departure stage” prior to being trafficked, stating that “[t]here are a number of common factors that make women vulnerable to trafficking and exploitation. Factors influencing trafficked women’s decision to migrate include poverty, single parenthood, a history of interpersonal violence, and coming from a disrupted household” (p. 3).

Zimmerman, Catherine, Mazeda Hossain, Kate Yun, Brenda Roche, Linda Morison, and Charlotte Watts. *Stolen Smiles: A Summary Report on the Physical and Psychological Health Consequences of Women and Adolescents Trafficked in Europe*. London, UK: The London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, 2006.

This report presents statistical data on trafficked women’s health outcomes. The report used the WHO multi-country study on violence and women’s health as a starting point to assess the prevalence of sexual abuse in the country of origin study sites and went on to conduct interviews with victims. The authors claim that their report includes some of the first data collected on trafficked women’s health. The recommendations are intended to help individual countries, international donors, private donors, NGOs, health workers, and other service providers recognize trafficking as a health issue. The report examines violence during the different stages of trafficking. Section 5, “Violence before Trafficking,” explores whether there may be common risk factors prevalent among trafficked women that may have made them more vulnerable to being trafficked. Those interviewed included teens and women who had experienced commercial sexual exploitation or who had experienced sexual abuse while working as domestic servants. Participants were invited to participate in interviews at three different times. 207 women participated in the first interview; 170 in the second; 63 in the third. The research found that more than half of the respondents (60%) reported some form of violence prior to being trafficked, with 32% sexually assaulted and 50% physically assaulted. Moreover, it found that “the prevalence of GBV reported by women prior to being trafficked compares with some of the highest national prevalence levels of GBV in the world” (p. 9).